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KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

State of Georgia
County of Fulton
City of Atlanta

Imperial Castle
Imperial Palace
August 8th, 1921

**TO ALL Lovers of Law, Order, Peace and Justice,
and to All the People of the United States:**

Whereas, an apparent nation-wide attempt through public statements in the press and conduct of lawless citizens and traitors within our ranks there appears to be a concerted effort to discredit the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in the eyes of the public.

Whereas, the Supreme Committee of the organization, composed of citizens of unquestioned character from the States of New York, Illinois, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and elsewhere is now in session in its sixth annual meeting.

Whereas, in the face of the above conditions, after full and careful deliberation, it has been decided that the Imperial Wizard of this organization should once again call the attention of the public to the real purposes and work of this organization in order that the truth may be known to all men.

Therefore, I, the Imperial Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan do hereby officially proclaim and declare under solemn oath as follows:

1st. The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan does not encourage or foster lawlessness, racial prejudice or religious intolerance and is not designed to act in the capacity of a law enforcement or moral correction agency except in so far as the members of the organization as citizens may be able to assist the regular officers of the law in the apprehending of criminals and the upholding and sustaining of the majesty of the law and the honor and integrity of the Stars and Stripes and the Constitution of the United States of America. To the above every member entering the portals of this organization has been sworn under the most binding and solemn oath and any act or word contrary to the above statement by any Klansman is a violation of his oath and puts him beyond the pale of fellowship in the organization and makes him an outlaw not only in the eyes of the law of the land, but in the eyes of his former fellow Klansmen, as a violation of oath of any Klansman automatically banishes him from this Organization.

2d. In order that there may be absolutely no doubt in the public mind as to the real purposes and object and work of this Organization, I quote herewith Section 3, Article 2, of the Constitution and Laws of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan: "This Order is an institution of Chivalry, Humanity, Justice and Patriotism, embodying in its genius and Principles all that is chivalric in conduct, noble in sentiment, generous in manhood and patriotic in purpose; its peculiar objects being: First, to protect the weak, the innocent and the defenseless from the indignities, wrongs and outrages of the lawless, the violent and the brutal; to relieve the injured and the oppressed; to succor the suffering and the unfortunate, especially worthy widows and orphans. Second, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, and all laws passed in conformity thereto, and to protect the States and the people thereof from all invasion of their rights thereunder from any source whatsoever. Third, to aid and assist in the execution of all constitutional laws, and to preserve and honor the dignity of the States by opposing tyranny in any and every form or degree attempted from any other sources whatsoever, by a fearless and faithful administration of justice; and to promptly and properly meet every behest of Duty without fear and without reproach." If necessary the Organization is prepared to submit the entire Constitution of the Order, as there is nothing in it that any honorable, law-abiding, conscientious, clean-hearted and pure-spirited, hundred per cent American could not subscribe to and swear to uphold.

3d. I hereby declare and pronounce the present attempt to fasten upon this Organization acts of lawlessness to be the attempt of our enemies to discredit the Organization, and the further our investigation goes into every particular incident of lawlessness which has been charged against us the more con-

vinced I am that the present wave of criticism passing through the press is a concerted move on the part of our enemies in an attempt to prejudice the public in regard to our work. In one instance we already have the statement of a supposed victim in Texas of lawless conduct on the part of the Ku Klux Klan that the incident itself was conceived in his own mind and that he tied the bandages around his hands and over his eyes and mouth himself, but he declined to state why he attempted to make it appear that the Ku Klux had robbed him. We know the reason why, and it is easy for the public to comprehend the reason and why he does not wish to disclose same. His statement or admission came before our investigators reached the spot.

4th. The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and any members of the Organization can not commit acts of lawlessness and remain in the fellowship of the Organization. We do not claim to have a perfect machine, because no human machine is perfect, and it is possible that words or deeds in violation of the rules and regulations of this Organization by its members may occur. It is also true that legislators, officers of the law and citizens, members of all of our leading fraternal organizations, are from time to time making mistakes and committing crimes in violation of the law, yet no one is justified in saying that because of this fact legislative bodies should be abolished, all machinery of the law demolished and all fraternal orders disbanded.

In conclusion, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is a law-abiding, legally, chartered, standard fraternal Order, designed to teach and inculcate the purest ideals of American citizenship, with malice toward none and justice to every citizen regardless of race, color or creed. It is attempting to bring about in America rededication of its membership in loyalty and devotion to the Stars and Stripes and the Constitution of the United States of America, and to build up and foster the spirit of real fraternity and fellowship amongst men. In the face of these facts, the Organization calmly awaits the final judgment OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA. If we are all that our enemies charge or even one-fourth as wicked as claimed, America has nothing to fear from this Organization, for it will perish. On the other hand, if we are being lied about by those who are unworthy and who are not pure Americans at heart, or who would sacrifice their country for selfish interests, the time will come when all their falsehoods and slanderous statements will react on them, and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan will come into its own and take its place in the hearts of real Americans, where its founders intended it should, as the one greatest force in America to guarantee to all men that this country shall forever be what its founders intended, THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE, wherein all men, regardless of race, color or creed, can live in peace and happiness, enjoying the greatest amount of liberty and justice in any country in the world.

WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMMONS
IMPERIAL WIZARD

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of August, 1921.

C. E. REGISTER,
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia.